

Appl. No. 09/829,251

Amdt. dated November 6, 2003

Response to Office Action mailed on July 16, 2003

Patent Docket #P0889-1C1

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled)

5. (currently amended): A method of secreting a heterologous polypeptide of interest in a cell comprising using a translational initiation region variant operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding said heterologous polypeptide to express said heterologous polypeptide, and secreting said heterologous polypeptide, wherein the translational strength of said variant translational initiation region is less than the translational strength of ~~the~~ a wild-type translational initiation region.

6. (currently amended): The method of claim 5 wherein the amount of secreted polypeptide ~~when said nucleic acid is operably linked to said variant~~ is greater than the amount of secreted polypeptide when said nucleic acid is operably linked to ~~the~~ a wild-type translational initiation region.

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented): The method of claim 25 wherein said secretion signal sequence is selected from the group consisting of STII, OmpA, PhoE, LamB, MBP and PhoA.

9. (previously added): The method of claim 8 wherein said signal sequence is selected from the group consisting of STII, PhoE and LamB.

10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein said signal sequence is STII.

11. (previously added): The method of claim 9 wherein said signal sequence is LamB.

12. (withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein said signal sequence is PhoE.

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13. (withdrawn) A nucleic acid encoding a translational initiation region variant, wherein the translational strength of said variant translational initiation region is less than the translational strength of the wild-type translational initiation region, wherein said translational initiation region includes a prokaryotic secretion signal sequence selected from the group consisting of STII, OmpA, PhoE, LamB, MBP and PhoA.

14. (withdrawn-not entered) A nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide operably linked to a translational initiation region variant, wherein the translational strength of said variant translational initiation region is less than the translational strength of the wild-type translational initiation region.

15. (cancelled)

16. (withdrawn-not entered) The nucleic acid of claim 26 wherein said translational initiation region includes a signal sequence selected from the group consisting of STII, OmpA, PhoE, LamB, MBP and PhoA.

17. (withdrawn) The nucleic acid of claim 16 wherein said signal sequence is selected from the group consisting of STII, PhoE and LamB.

18. (withdrawn) The nucleic acid of claim 17 wherein said signal sequence is STII.

19. (withdrawn) The nucleic acid of claim 17 wherein said signal sequence is LamB.

20. (withdrawn) The nucleic acid of claim 17 wherein said signal sequence is PhoE.

21. (withdrawn) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 14 operably linked to additional elements for expression of a gene of interest.

22. (withdrawn) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 21.

23. (withdrawn) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 14.

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24. (currently amended): A method of secreting a heterologous polypeptide of interest in a cell comprising using a translational initiation region variant operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding said heterologous polypeptide to express said heterologous polypeptide, and secreting said heterologous polypeptide, wherein the translational strength of said variant translational initiation region is less than the translational strength of ~~the~~ a wild-type translational initiation region, wherein said translational initiation region includes a prokaryotic secretion signal sequence selected from the group consisting of STII, OmpA, PhoE, LamB, MBP and PhoA.

25. (previously presented): The method of claim 5 wherein said translational initiation region includes a prokaryotic secretion signal sequence.

26. (withdrawn) The nucleic acid of claim 14 wherein said translational initiation region includes a prokaryotic secretion signal sequence.